

Controversial Issues

Controversial issues exist where there are sharp differences of opinion concerning an idea or a line of action. In order that students may develop intelligent attitudes and understandings concerning significant aspects of living, they should be afforded opportunities within the classroom to deal with such issues to the extent appropriate for their level of maturity and the educational mission of the District.

In considering such issues, it shall be the purpose of our schools to provide students the opportunity:

1. To study controversial issues concerning which the students, at their level of maturity, should have begun to form an opinion or to seek information about.
2. To have access to all relevant, educationally appropriate information, including the materials that circulate freely in the community.
3. To study under competent instruction in an atmosphere of freedom from bias and prejudice.
4. To form, and in an appropriate manner and in appropriate forum, to express the students' own judgments on controversial issues.
5. To recognize that reasonable compromise is often an important facet in decision making in our society.
6. To respect the opinions of others.

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